

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here is what some of the world's most notorious thugs, dictators and human rights violators have said about President Obama: Moammar Qaddafi, the president of Libya, who gave a hero's welcome to the terrorists who blew up the Pan American airliner, killing over 100 Americans: "We are content and happy if Obama can stay forever as the President."

Fidel Castro: "Everything he (President Obama) affirms is in contradiction with what the United States has done for 150 years."

Hugo Chavez, the dictator and human rights abuser of Venezuela: "Comrade Obama! Fidel, careful or we are going to end up to his right."

Let's hope the President is not known by his admirers. Rather, let's hope that he will stand up to his admirers. Frankly, the world would be a safer place if he did.

#### HONORING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOUNTAINSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker: Remembering the past; Part of the future. This is a theme to be celebrated on October 4 when the borough of Mountainside in my congressional district will commemorate the 75th anniversary of its public library. Since its founding in 1934 in the basement of the municipal building, the Mountainside Public Library has grown into a 10,000-square-foot facility. It provides informational, cultural, educational and recreational services to people of all ages in Mountainside and surrounding communities. Whether encouraging literacy and learning through numerous children's story and craft programs, assisting area senior citizens, or providing residents with a critical link to the digital world, the Mountainside library is providing outstanding community services to its residents. While much has changed at the Mountainside library during its 75 years, what has remained the same is the dedicated community that has generously donated time and resources to enhance the library's resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Mountainside Public Library for 75 years of rich and wonderful contributions to the entire community. This library is truly an important part of Mountainside's past, present, and future.

□ 1030

#### SUPPORT H.R. 3200, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, even today we have come further than we

ever have before on the path to achieving comprehensive health insurance reform. Now is not the time to take a step back. Now is the time to keep the momentum going.

The American people want access to affordable health insurance when the small business they work for can't provide it for them. The American people want to know they won't lose their health insurance if their company has to make another round of layoffs. The American people want more doctors and nurses in their communities so they know health care is always available.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3200 accomplishes all these goals and more. I urge my colleagues to step up and seize this moment. Support this legislation to bring affordable and quality care to all Americans. Join me in strong support of H.R. 3200.

#### HONORING BRIAN GRIMM, OKLAHOMA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR, 2009

(Mr. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual from my district, Mr. Brian Grimm.

On Thursday, September 17, Brian Grimm was named Oklahoma's Teacher of the Year. After 13 years in education and with 6 years teaching at Will Rogers High School in my hometown of Tulsa, he was selected for this highly respected, much-deserved honor by a collection of education, business, and civic leaders.

Following his graduation from Sapulpa High School in a suburb of Tulsa, he went on to the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. Brian currently teaches English and advanced placement English while pursuing his master's degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Grimm is the first teacher from Tulsa Public Schools to win this honor in over 45 years and is a true hero for the work he does for Tulsa's youth. The role teachers play in preparing our children for a successful future cannot be understated, and thanks to the highly dedicated educators like Brian Grimm, that future has never looked brighter.

I'm proud to honor him today and congratulate him on his achievement.

#### TEACHER EQUITY: EFFECTIVE TEACHERS FOR ALL CHILDREN

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, the Education and Labor Committee is holding a hearing later this morning on teacher equity and ensuring that all children have access to effective teachers.

The most important resource in every classroom is a caring, qualified, and competent teacher; yet highly ef-

fective teachers tend to be more concentrated in affluent communities. Children of the highest poverty and highest minority schools across the country are often taught by less experienced, less qualified teachers. These children are being shortchanged. Closing this "teacher quality gap" is a critical step in closing the achievement gap for these students.

We can do more here in Congress to support the important work teachers do and to help teachers access the professional development and support they need. We can do more to ensure that effective teachers are placed, and encouraged to stay, in the classrooms where they are most needed. By building on the work of this Congress, for example, we required States to provide assurance that they will take steps to address disparities in teacher equity as a condition of receiving Recovery Act funds.

#### ACORN

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues in the House and Senate for recently voting to block ACORN from receiving any additional Federal funding. It is clear that ACORN is unable to use Federal money properly, and as our constituents face financial hardships of their own, the last place hard-earned taxpayers' dollars should be allocated is to an organization known for its blatant abuse of these funds.

Thanks to action by Republicans and Democrats alike, this House has passed legislation preventing this questionable organization from receiving another cent of America's taxpayers' money.

But our efforts must not stop here. There is a complex web of nonprofits that directly fund ACORN and its affiliates.

The American public has a right to know how ACORN is funded. After all, for years we have been the ones footing the bill.

#### GUANTANAMO BAY: STILL AN IMPORTANT ISSUE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, when President Obama and Senator McCain pledged to close our legal black hole known as Guantanamo Bay, they reaffirmed to the world that the United States is a Nation governed by the rule of law and defined by our embrace of universal human rights. Yet efforts to close this antithesis of the American justice system have stalled due to the administration's poor handling of the issue, not-in-my-backyard